

## NBI witness provides comic relief in probe

By TJ Buerge

A PITHY, whom the National Bureau of Investigation would describe as the epitome of confused "justice" operative Wilfredo "Boy" Mayra, could provide only comic relief in yesterday's Senate hearing on the illegal number 1 scam.

# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS

## AFF says Boracay resort family-oriented

By Connie E. Hernandez

PHILIPPINE AFFILIATES

1993 CITY - The family-oriented resort on Boracay was constructed by a wife and her



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# 'Lueteng': Father-son affair

## 2 bagmen implicate Mike A, refer to Mikey as Lion King

By John Lading Jr.

IN AN apparent escalation of allegations against the Pineda family, a former justice department prosecutor yesterday charged the name of First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo into the gambling scandal.

A second witness came in with his own story for referring to the President's last son, Pangasinan Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, as a "lion king" in the past number of years as "the Lion King" for his alleged role.

A third presidential witness, the first Gentleman's brother and House-Orin Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, must appear.

This admitted lobbyist had the reputation of the Senate inquiry. One of them also played some members of a political family provided him to the Villanueva of Cebu last day in the witness testimony.

His online internet website "Pineda" who testified last week, the two sons mentioned did not mention working alone gambling profits for the three years domestic relations.

And neither of the pair provided any concrete evidence in support of their allegations.

Rep. Arroyo's testimony agreed that the two sons were involved in the gambling industry but he did not present anything to directly prove the charges.

House Speaker Manuel A. Lopez (Luzon) and Sen. Pangasinan (Luzon) and the two sons provided a "bulletin" of what they said was evidence against the alleged gambling industry.

Confused hearing began around 10:30 a.m. and lasted about 10:30 a.m. and lasted about 10:30 a.m.



ARROYO, First Gentleman's brother (top) and Arroyo (bottom) testified.



WHISTLE-BLOWING "justice" lawyer (top) Richard Garcia and (bottom) Arroyo's brother (bottom) Arroyo.



ARROYO, First Gentleman's brother (top) and Arroyo (bottom) testified.



ARROYO, First Gentleman's brother (top) and Arroyo (bottom) testified.

## Mikey: I'm not Lion King; witness is Liar King

By Michael Lim Ulloa, Philip C. Solis and Richard A. Pineda

THE PRESIDENT'S son, Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, must testify for his role in the alleged gambling industry.

"I am not the Lion King, but I am not the Lion King," said Arroyo, who is the son of the President, in a letter to the President's son, Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, must testify for his role in the alleged gambling industry.

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## Palace releases 2 CDs of 'bugged' GMA phone call

By Christine C. Aranda and Gil C. Cabanagem Jr.

MORON: In the midst of President Arroyo's second term, the Palace released two CDs of a "bugged" GMA phone call.

"There are segments of the recording who want to undermine my ability to govern and even want to destroy me and I will not let them," said Arroyo, who is the son of the President, in a letter to the President's son, Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, must testify for his role in the alleged gambling industry.

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## Cell phone firms dispute wiretap claim

By Gil C. Cabanagem Jr.

THE PRESIDENT'S son, Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, must testify for his role in the alleged gambling industry.

## DepEd warns public schools charging fees

By John Lading Jr.

ON THURSDAY, the day of school, the DepEd warned public schools charging fees.

"There are segments of the recording who want to undermine my ability to govern and even want to destroy me and I will not let them," said Arroyo, who is the son of the President, in a letter to the President's son, Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, must testify for his role in the alleged gambling industry.

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CLASH ACT: Students occupy the corridor while waiting for an accommodation in the already crowded classrooms of the National High School in Quezon City.

## WEATHER FORECAST

PHILIPPINE: Light and variable breeze with scattered showers increasing to moderate rain in the afternoon. In the evening, showers will be scattered. The weather will be mostly cloudy with occasional showers.

US: Partly cloudy with occasional showers.

## Second FRONT PAGE

Read our second front page on the 2011 World in 100 Words.

Region	Country	Headline
Asia	Philippines	Trade with US
Asia	Philippines	Trade with US
Asia	Philippines	Trade with US
Asia	Philippines	Trade with US
Asia	Philippines	Trade with US
Asia	Philippines	Trade with US
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Asia	Philippines	Trade with US
Asia	Philippines	Trade with US

## TRAFFICKING IN HUMANS CAMPAIGN

## RP in danger of losing US aid

By Rob Contorno

THE GOVERNMENT could suffer cuts in United States assistance in its campaign against human trafficking, if in Washington's eyes, local prosecutors of bonded labor, restrictive sex trade and child prostitution remained uncommitted.

The US Embassy in Manila issued this caution yesterday following the release of a US Department of State report that accused the Philippines among the most vulnerable to human trafficking in the world.

The US agency for International Development currently runs programs against human trafficking in the country including a law enforcement training program with the Department of Justice.

The US state department's

2010 Trafficking in Persons Report placed the Philippines in the "Tier 2 Watch List" along with 48 other countries that included China, Russia, India, South Africa, Mexico and Greece.

The Philippines, which rose "downward" in this grouping in 2008, has been in the list "due to its failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking," the TIP report said.

In 2009 and 2008, three senior Manila officials, representing the TIP report said,

"That I'm not aware of any in the Philippines," the embassy public affairs counselor, Ronald Lee, noted in a briefing.

The Philippines is a group that "requires more assistance and needed training" with respect to its anti-trafficking policies, the US Embassy's political counselor, Jon Nolasco, explained.

In the event, a "watch list" entry also in the latest may - Tier 3 - it will be "subject to restrictions on US government assistance," Nolasco said.

"We surely hope the Philippines can move up. If there's no progress, then there will have to be discussion about how to deal with that within the US government," he said.

USOED assists the TIP campaign against through non-government organizations have

raised \$400,000 (P22.6 million). These include NGOs that conduct information drives, law enforcement and direct intervention to trafficking cases.

The agency also supports the US government's role of Law Enforcement Against Trafficking, which runs public and private programs in battling TIP cases, as well as street-level enforcement and witness.

In a related development, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar - among the US' top allies in the Middle East - were among 14 countries named by the US state department this week that they feared countries if they didn't adequately address human trafficking.

While noting economic link between the Gulf and the Philippines, the US state department said they were struggling to deal with an increased

immigrant human traffickers who bring in numerous unskilled workers, while withholding wages and sometimes pay.

Despite known Ministerial and Special AG/Police and Security is not sufficient. The state department's "watch list" condemning the country as a haven for organized crime and that said cases would remain as reviewed.

"These reports are usually a good measure to look at the issues from another perspective and provide a lot of additional look at what's going on," AG/Police said. "We're not sure that the US state department is looking to punish countries."

The US report also slammed the five countries for exploiting the low-wage foreign laborers who underpin the construction boom underway in the Gulf. It

and governments allowed non-papers to exploit low-paid foreign workers, while withholding wages and sometimes pay.

The Department of State said the US state department's "watch list" is not a threat, but a warning.

AG/Police said the country is not a haven for organized crime and that said cases would remain as reviewed.

"We're not sure that the US state department is looking to punish countries," AG/Police said. "We're not sure that the US state department is looking to punish countries."

## Ambassador heads home after flap over 'Nazi' comment

By Rob Contorno and Jerome Biring

PHILIPPINE Ambassador to Israel Antonio Medina, who has earned the ire of his host government for comparing Israeli immigration officials to "Nazis," is due to return home shortly for "consultations" with state of Philippine workers in the Israeli nation.

The Department of Foreign Affairs announced Medina's return yesterday, the day the press in Manila reported that Israel had threatened an apology from the Philippine diplomat.

In a statement, the DFA said the travel restriction for Medina's return was issued by the department "upon being the publication of the ambassador's comments," a grave no done for his life time.

In a newspaper interview published in Israel Friday, Medina said the Israeli treatment of foreign workers by Israeli immigration police was comparable to that suffered by Jews at the hands of the Gestapo, the Nazi secret police.

Medina had submitted to the house after a preliminary report on his published comments. The report, however, Alberto Bensaid said.

The Philippine state was scheduled to meet yesterday with the Israeli Foreign Ministry, where he had that several promises over incidents of abuse against Filipinos.

Medina clarified, though, that his comments had been distorted at the immigration police and not while in general when he described as a "warm people." He also explained that blacks, then

and Indonesian also received similar mistreatment.

Philippine workers' groups called behind Medina yesterday, with the military overseas group arguing saying it should be the Israeli government that should apologize to the Philippines.

"It is the Israeli government that should issue to the Philippines an apology for its treatment of migrant workers and not the other way around," said Medina from their base in Tel Aviv.

"From regarding Philippine workers as the lack of respect in flight in 1980, the confiscation of cell phones and night work of overseas Filipino workers' union, the Israeli government is not sure that it is sufficient, it should be the one to issue an apology not Ambassador Medina," he said.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry said Medina's comments were "grossed down" over the Israeli government and called on the DFA to investigate reports that in various immigration offices were mistreating Filipino migrant workers.

TLCOP spokesperson after stating that the report about the alleged mistreatment of OFWs emerged in the country was following Miguel Mercado's book.

"It is a disinformation and needs a full blown investigation. If there reports are true, the government should not wait for a moment in lodging a diplomatic protest with the Israeli government," he said.

Medina's remarks prompted criticism from Filipinos in Israel. "This is what Philippine diplomats should do, defend the rights of Filipinos in their areas of responsibility," one said.

## DOLE belies Tarongoy ransom negotiations

A DOLE Department of Labor and Employment official yesterday denied reports that the Philippine government and the employees of Robert Tarongoy had agreed to ransom in the payment of the \$5 million ransom from his family.

The official said the ransom was not being paid.

"We are not paying any ransom," he said.

"In the first place, we cannot afford to pay that ransom. We have made our position clear that we are not paying any ransom," he said.

He said that Department of Foreign Affairs officials who were in Baghdad, led by Undersecretary Robert Tarongoy, were continuing to negotiate Tarongoy's release and were "on top of the story."

The DOLE, meanwhile, continued to insist with Tarongoy's family and was providing them with whatever assistance they needed, he said.

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## N Mindanao has deadliest roads — DPWH

By Lito B. Salaserra

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka**—More than 1,000 traffic accidents on national roads in Northern Mindanao resulted in 1,000 deaths in the country in 2004, a road accident, second in the world, of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

From June 1, 2004 to April 30, 2005, a total of 609 traffic accidents on national roads, resulting in 609 deaths, were recorded in Northern Mindanao (Region IX). The province is the second deadliest, followed by Region I, with 500 deaths. Region II, with 400 deaths, followed by Region III, with 300 deaths.

The accidents resulted in 1,000 deaths, 273 on roads and 726 on other roads. Most of the accidents—400—were attributed to human error. 500 accidents caused 500 deaths, 77 were due to negligence in driving and 37 were attributed to bad weather conditions.

The Road Safety (Region IX) committee in the province of Zamboanga City, with 500 deaths, however, ranked first in the most number of fatalities with 273.

A total of 1,000 traffic accidents on national roads in all the regions in the country, except the National Capital Region, were recorded for the period.

The fatalities in all the regions totaled 500. Human error accounted for 500 of the accidents, 500 were due to negligence in driving, 400 were due to bad weather conditions, 300 were due to bad weather conditions, 200 were due to bad weather conditions.

## House to publish names of truant solons

By Philip C. Tolosa

**THE HOUSE** of Representatives is expected to publish the names of congressmen who failed to support the measure after two legislative sessions on the House floor.

After Rep. Silver Laguesa and the majority and minority blocs decided after a session that it would be more "effective" to publish the names of their truant colleagues instead of adopting a "no work, no pay" policy.

"The objective of our decision is to ensure the names of the public and their respective representatives will be more of better than a covert salary deduction," Laguesa said.

"Compelling members to be present

ing to ensure the pay of truant solons, this is a high priority over our studies of truant solons' salary issue," he said.

On Thursday, Representative Laguesa (Ateneo de Manila) and House Majority Leader (Ateneo de Manila) called on the House leadership to ensure the release of their pay for the next legislative session.

Laguesa and the caucus, attended by representatives of all political parties and party-list groups, called the idea of publishing the names of truant solons.

"Since and that it was too much a priority while I pointed out that it was a truant solons' salary issue," he said.

There was concern that the publication of names would be a

down on a monthly basis effective in July or the next legislative session of Congress. I hope the management would also support it by this," Laguesa said.

However, by the committee's lack of a quorum, Laguesa and the caucus called on the House leadership to ensure the release of their pay for the next legislative session.

"The House leadership would be deprived of their pay for the next legislative session," Laguesa said.

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## Bong Pineda a no-show at Erap plunder trial

By Robert F. Flores

**MANILA**—Bong Pineda, the former "Boss" of the Manila Police Department, failed to appear at the trial of the Manila Police Department (MPD) in the Erap case.

Justice Secretary Jose Francisco and the Supreme Court's decision to allow the MPD to sue Pineda for the Erap case.

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# DepEd warns public schools charging fees

From page A1  
voluntary.

The DepEd also prohibited schools from requiring payment of contributions before admission and from refusing to enroll students due to lack of required documents, such as class records, report cards and birth certificates.

However, it allows the collection of voluntary fees for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Red Cross and the anti-tuberculosis fund drive.

Other complaints received by the DepEd included missing school records for transfers, the proliferation of ambulant vendors around schools, and confusion in class schedules.

Abad quickly stressed that the DepEd received fewer complaints this year compared to the other years.

Overall, the secretary said, the opening of the school year "turned out well," basing his assessment on reports he received from the Philippine National Police, the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

He also noted that Typhoon "Dante" had veered away from the country and avoided drenching schoolchildren on the first day of school.

## No longer most congested

Yesterday, Abad paid a visit to the Rizal National High School in Pasig City, which was once "the most congested school in the world" with some 24,000 students.

He said his department, together with local government officials, was able to decongest the school by dispersing most of the students to six annex schools. As a result, the school now has a population of only 9,000 students.

A total of 17.6 million public school students trooped back to the country's 42,000 public elementary and high schools. Another 4.4 million students returned to private schools, colleges and universities around the country.

The student population had increased by 1.68 percent since last year due to the exodus of students from private schools to public schools because of the rising cost of tuition.

The DepEd also said it had lowered the classroom shortage to only 8,644 from 57,930.

## Unbelievable claims

"Unbelievable," was how Bryan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casillo described Abad's claim that the classroom shortage had been reduced without new classrooms being built by the government.

"Accounting magic cannot all too suddenly erase immense shortages which parents and students know of first-hand," said Casillo, adding that the 10,000 new teachers to be recruited by the DepEd fell "immensely short" of the 49,099 needed across the country.

Casillo, chair of the House subcommittee on students' and teachers' welfare and vice chair of the House committee on basic education, said he wanted to summon Abad and Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin to explain

the formula used to prove that the problem had been addressed despite scarce budgetary allocations.

## Please explain

"How can DepEd suddenly reduce classroom shortage from about 57,930 to 8,644? It must be magic. Reassignments can't solve severe shortages. The more precise figure should be 57,930 for class sizes of 50 which is more than the rule rather than the exception in overcrowded public schools," said Casillo.

The more plausible explanation was that Abad was "only making do with the grossly inadequate budget given him by the current Malacañang occupant," which is P102.62 billion this year, said Casillo.

The lawmaker estimated that P72 billion was needed to stamp out shortages in public schools: 57,930 classrooms, 3.48 million seats, 34.7 million textbooks and about 50,000 teachers.

"P72 billion is too small a bill compared to almost half a trillion pesos that Ms Arroyo has long ordered to be appropriated for the most unproductive expenses such as military intelligence, military modernization and foreign debt payments," he said.

He reiterated his call on students and parents to direct their protests at Ms Arroyo, saying "her misprioritization of annual appropriations have resulted in shortages in such vital services as education, among others."

"Ms Arroyo is practically pushing parents into penury and mendicancy due to high cost of education and the lack of adequate state funding for public instruction," Casillo said. "She is the single biggest stumbling block to enlarged appropriations for our public schools."

## Paper solution

The Alliance of Concerned Teachers also disputed the DepEd's claim that it had slashed the nationwide shortage of classrooms in public schools by implementing a "two-shift policy," insisting that this was only a "paper solution."

"It seems [someone waved] a magic wand [and] solved the chronic classroom shortage overnight," said ACT chair Antonio Tinio.

"However, it's a paper solution, not a real one. In the real world, those schools that are experiencing shortages are already implementing two- or three-shift schedules. The majority of schools that remain on a one-shift schedule do so because one shift is all they need," Tinio said.

He added that the two-shift policy would only work if it was coupled with a provision for transferring students from congested schools to ones with adequate classrooms. "But DepEd does not provide for that. Moreover, many students and parents would find that impractical."

## Teacher shortage

In addition, Tinio said the classroom shortage went hand in hand with the teacher shortage.

"Even if more classrooms become available, there won't be enough teach-

ers to handle the additional sections. Two shifts would mean doubling the number of sections in a school. Where are the teachers who will handle these extra sections?" he asked.

He noted that this school year's teacher shortage stands at 49,099, adding that the current teaching force was "already overloaded yet underpaid."

Tinio and his group scored the DepEd for misleading the public on the issue.

"Instead of telling it like it is, they like to fudge the data when it comes to classroom shortages. Last year, they claimed that they had reduced the classroom shortage from 39,383 to 10,708. It turns out that they brought down the figure merely by changing the formula for computing shortages. They are now using a classroom-pupil ratio of 1:60 instead of 1:45," explained Tinio.

The ACT noted that the shortages claimed by DepEd would have a major impact on the education budget that Malacañang would submit to Congress. "It's crucial that they get the numbers right. If they understate the classroom shortage, then DepEd will continue to receive the pitifully inadequate classroom construction budget that they've been receiving for the past four years."

"Pencil-pushing won't do it. The only real solution to classroom shortages is to build more classrooms," said Tinio.

## Better-designed schools

According to engineer Federico Mobo, a member of the Department of Public Works and Highways task force on school buildings, the government has built a total of 8,258 classrooms since July last year.

A total of 1,861 classrooms are under construction, while 2,417 are in the preconstruction stage. Their target for the period of July 2004 to December 2005 is 12,536 classrooms.

Mobo also said the department had come up with a design for cheaper yet structurally superior prefabricated school buildings.

Under the DPWH's proposed design, the new school buildings' frames would be made of structural steel I-beam for beams and columns. The steel sheet materials for the panels would be warranted against defects and corrosion for 10 years.

The components would be lightweight and could be installed manually without the use of cranes.

The buildings would also be completed in 10-12 days, including foundation and painting finish, and could withstand Signal No. 4-type winds and a magnitude-8.5 earthquake.

Other features of the new design are full insulation from heat and sound, including noise from heavy rains. The structure will be fully shielded from rainwater intrusion to protect books, computers and other sensitive materials.

The DPWH is still evaluating sites with flat and accessible terrain, where the newly designed buildings could be built.

# AFP says Boracay resort family-oriented

From page A1  
Yeah, anything for the family.

The 60-room Sampaguita Family Recreation Center in Boracay Manobo-mano, Boracay, is an "austere" and "modest" facility intended for soldiers to bond and spend quality time with their families, said Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, Armed Forces Central Command (Centcom) chief.

If soldiers plan to hold a weekend of boozing and parties at the center, they will have to change their plans, Teodosio said yesterday in a news conference.

Since it is a family-oriented facility, drinking, gambling and smoking are not allowed in the resort. Guests are also prohibited from wearing uniforms and from bringing in firearms.

The resort staff can even ask for the identification card of a soldier's wife if they have reason to doubt her actual status.

An unmarried soldier can check in and avail himself of a dormitory-type accommodation but he cannot bring his girlfriend with him.

"Our society frowns on extracurricular activities," said Teodosio, stressing that the resort is aimed at strengthening the marriage bond.

Teodosio disclosed that many military families had broken up mainly because the husband-soldier was away serving the country.

"Children don't get to see their fathers because their jobs take them away from their families," he said.

## Soldiers are people, too

According to Teodosio, some people don't seem to appreciate the sacrifices made by soldiers and their families. Instead, these people regard them as "working ants" who do not deserve to enjoy a vacation in Boracay with their families.

"Why? Is Boracay not also for soldiers (and their families) to enjoy?" he said.

The resort, which cost at least P10 million to construct, was built with donations from members of the Kaibigan ng mga Kawal sa Kapuluan (KKK) Foundation.

KKK president Nelson Yuvallos said his group came up with the idea for the project after hearing sad stories of how some families of soldiers had broken up and some children of soldiers had turned to illegal drugs.

To strengthen family values, he said, the family should be together.

## Affordable rates

But, Yuvallos said, a trip to the mall would not be as fulfilling as bringing the entire family to Boracay, a "dreamland" for ordinary soldiers.

With affordable rates at the resort, he said, soldiers could fulfil this dream with their families.

Teodosio stressed that the facility's priority would be the ordinary soldiers because the generals could afford to stay in other resorts in Boracay.

The room rates are based on the rank base pay. A general and admiral will pay P1,250 per night while a soldier with a rank of private will only be charged P301 a night.

Teodosio said the facility was similar to Hale Koa Hotel in Waikiki, Hawaii, a first-class hotel and recreation facility for members of the US military and their families at affordable rates.

He said the military would also ask shipping companies to give special discounts to soldiers who would go to Boracay with their families.

## Basic needs

But the construction of the island-resort had been criticized by sectors concerned with the lack of basic needs of troops in the battlefield.

Teodosio said the military accepted the offer of the KKK to put up the resort in Boracay in order to boost the morale of the soldiers and to give

them an opportunity to spend time with their families in the famous island-resort.

He said the KKK did not want to replace the obligation of the government to provide better pay, health services and equipment, among other things, to the soldiers.

## Other projects

But he said the KKK was also planning to come up with other projects, including financial assistance to soldiers affected by calamities and educational scholarship for orphans of combat casualties.

Teodosio took exception to the harsh criticisms about the construction of the resort. It is not even on the beach front, where the rich frolic, but about a kilometer from the coastline, he said.

"While bang kapuluan ang sundalo na mag-enjoy din ang national treasure na rinigawag na Boracay (Don't soldiers have the right to enjoy the national treasure called Boracay)," he said in an emotional speech during the flag-raising ceremony at Camp Lapu-lapu, the Centcom headquarters in Burangay Lahug in this city.

## Donations still accepted

At first, Yuvallos said the project was intended for Centcom. Plans changed and the facility would be opened to the entire Armed Forces.

Yuvallos said more than 1,000 KKK members from all over the country had donated to the project. The donations ranged from P10 to P50,000. Others gave air-conditioning units, TV sets and freezers.

Yuvallos said his group would send the book of donations to the United States because Filipino communities there might also want to give donations.

He urged people to support the "love cause" and show their appreciation for services rendered by the soldiers.





# DOLE rejects Int'l School appeal

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Employment has rejected the appeal of International School Manila which had been ordered to pay its Filipino faculty members \$7 million in back wages by the Supreme Court.

In a resolution dated May 31, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas ordered ISM and the local-hire faculty union, the International School Alliance of Educators, to expedite the settlement of their 10-year-old dispute, giving both parties non-extendable deadlines.

According to the order, the ISAE must submit a verified list of the employees covered by the DOLE order

and the amounts due them by June 9.

The school was also compelled to comment on the ISAE computations within five days of receipt of the ISAE documents, after which a writ of execution shall be issued by the DOLE.

The recent DOLE resolution deemed the school's motion for reconsideration as lacking in merit, with "no new arguments advanced by the school, to convince this office that an error was committed in the issuance of the assailed order."

"We see no cogent or compelling reason to disturb our earlier ruling," Sto. Tomas said in her three-page de-

cision, referring to her order of April 1, 2005, which goes back to an earlier order dated Feb. 19, 2002.

The DOLE assumed jurisdiction over the labor dispute between ISM and ISAE's 178 members on Sept. 22, 1995, on several issues that included salary and benefits parity among foreign-hires and local-hires.

When the department ruled against them, the union brought the case to the Supreme Court, which said granting higher salaries to foreign-hires constituted racial discrimination against Filipinos in violation of the equal protection clause of the Constitution. *Jerome Aning*

# Decide Luisita case quickly, Señeres urged

TWO MILITANT workers groups yesterday asked outgoing National Labor Relations Commission chair Ray Señeres to decide quickly the labor case filed by striking plantation workers against the management of Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac.

In a joint press statement, the farmers' group Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura and the fisherfolk organization Pamalakaya said

Señeres would be doing a "remarkable job of patriotism and statesmanship" if he decided the labor case pending before the NLRC in favor of the hacienda workers represented by the United Luisita Workers Union.

Señeres is NLRC chief until June 30 when his resignation takes effect.

Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap said Señeres could decide on the labor case in less than a week.

"He still has the constitutional powers at his disposal to decide the case in favor of the striking workers of Hacienda Luisita," Hicap said.

UMA national coordinator Ray Morilla said a ruling in favor of the workers would spoil alleged maneuverings on the case by Malacatang and the hacienda owners, the Cojuangcos.

"We appeal to Commissioner Señeres to make a decision now in favor of the moral and legal cause of the Hacienda Luisita workers. This is one important legacy he can leave to the Filipino people before he leaves public service," Morilla said. *Jerome Aning*

## THE DAILY GOSPEL



Tuesday, June 7, 2005  
10th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:  
Gospel:

2 Cor 1: 18-22  
Matthew 5: 13-16

Jesus said to his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt has lost its strength, how can it be made salty again? It has become useless. It can only be thrown away and people will trample on it.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a mountain cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and covers it; instead it is put on a lampstand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before others, so that they may see the good you do and praise your Father in heaven."

Commentary:

These readings for the week to come are the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus' new law of love and the Spirit of obedience and truth. Of course we obey the ten commandments and now we dig into them and come up with layers of truth that we must seek to incorporate into our very bodies and lives. We are to be salt: what flavors, heals—cure the wounds, cure for eating time, brings our other names and highlights, replaces realities in our system we lose through wear and what holds together during for fuel. Salt was in many places coin of the land. And we are light, boundless light in the darkness like a lighthouse on the edge of a rocky coast bringing direction, protection and warning to others, a beacon of hope and warmth, and welcome. And we are to be this for the glory of God so that others can know our Father and give him praise. This isn't something we do alone—all this demands that we belong to a community and this is our practice, our discipline and our life together. Are we good salt and light?

Christian Publications Inc., 5 Mayamit St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, LUPAO, Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: [cp@cdm.org](mailto:cp@cdm.org); Website: <http://www.bible.cdm.org> (Christian Publications Inc.) & <http://religionaries.cdm.org> (Clerics in the Philippines)

## SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES



**CIVIL LAW (SPECIAL CONTRACTS: SALES)**—Rules of preference in double sales.—Following Article 1544, in the double sale of an immovable, the rules of preference are:

(a) the first registrant in good faith; (b) should there be no entry, the first in possession in good faith; and (c) in the absence thereof, the buyer who presents the oldest title in good faith. Prior registration of the subject property does not by itself confer ownership or a better right over the property. Article 1544 requires that before the second buyer can obtain priority over the first, he must show that he acted in good faith throughout (i.e., in ignorance of the first sale and of the first buyer's rights) from the time of acquisition until the title is transferred to him by registration or failing registration, by delivery of possession. (Citations omitted.) (Justice Tinga, Consolidated Rural Bank (Cagayan Valley), Inc. v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 132161, January 17, 2005) By R. B. Vera

# Join the International Conference on

 <b>PROJECT 2005</b>	<b>DOING BUSINESS AMIDST NEW THREATS</b> 8 – 9 June 2005, World Trade Center Metro Manila, Philippines
<b>Organized in cooperation with the ANTI-TERRORISM TASK FORCE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Philippines</b>	
<b>CONFERENCE PROGRAM</b>	
<b>Opening Ceremony And Opening Of Exhibits</b>  <i>Keynote Speech</i> <b>Antonio M. Natchado, Jr., Governor</b> National Security Adviser National Anti-Terrorism Coordinator Anti-Terrorism Task Force	<i>Keynote of Technology – Security enhanced...</i> <b>Adrian Siao</b> Managing Director United Parcel Service (UPS)
<b>June 8 – SESSION 1</b>  <b>The New Terrorism: The Threat and the Response</b> <i>Dr. Andrew Tan Eui</i> Paper on Southeast Asian Security, Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies, Singapore Currently working a team of 25 in the writing of the reference "Handbook on Terrorism and Insurgency in Southeast Asia". Author of several books, the latest being the forthcoming "Southeast Asia: Threats to the Security Environment"	<b>IT Security and the Impact of Secure Software on Homeland Security</b> <i>Julius E. Llanera</i> Senior Anti-Virus Consultant Trend Micro
<b>The Southeast Asian Terror Network</b> <b>Haris A. Akbar</b> Consultant Former CNN Jakarta Bureau Chief Author of "Beats of Terror", an overseas edition of Al Qaeda's secret source of operations in Southeast Asia	<b>Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing</b> <b>Archie Pines</b> Attaché, International and Customs Enforcement Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Embassy, Manila
<b>Strategic Approach to Counter-Terrorism</b> <b>Paul C. Orr</b> Deputy, National Security Adviser Anti-Terrorism Task Force  <b>Protection of Critical Infrastructure: Public Sector and Private Sector Partnership</b> <b>Abdullah A. Managassan</b> Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer Philippine National Construction Corporation	<b>Counterfunding of Goods: The Risk and Link to Terrorist Funding</b> <b>Jeffrey A. Williams, CPP</b> President and Managing Director Orion Support, Inc. Former U.S. Marshals County Criminal Justice Case Officer with 17 years of experience in Intellectual Property Rights Investigation and Enforcement Experience
<b>Business Response to Terror</b> <b>Graeme Campbell</b> Regional Director, Asia Pacific MIMOB Group  <b>Risk Management for the Security of Critical Infrastructure</b> <b>Harvey J. Boring</b> Head of Security Asian Development Bank	<b>Aviation Security</b> <b>George B. Brennan</b> President, Aviation Transportation Consultants Co. Ltd. Formerly with US Transport Security Administration & Federal Aviation Administration  <b>Minimization of Blast Collateral Damage on Critical Infrastructure</b> <b>John Crawford, President</b> <b>Dr. Shuang Lin, Principal Engineer/Technical Director</b> Kampong & Co., USA / K&C Protective Technologies Pte. Ltd, Singapore
<b>Managing Risk for Competitive Advantage</b> <b>Philip Knechtges</b> President Vice President H&A American Risk Consulting (Philippines) Inc.	<b>Sabotage and Terrorism Insurance</b> <b>James E. Quirk III</b> Senior Vice President, Regional Director-Credit & Political Risk Marsh Singapore Pte Ltd

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## Ople book guides OFW's

A BOOK to guide first-time overseas Filipino workers, authored by Undersecretary Juan "Joni" Ople of the Office of the Peace Secretary, will be launched today at the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration offices in commemoration of Migrante Workers Day.

The book, written in Filipino and entitled "Mula Sa Pa-Pala," provides useful information and reminders to OFWs and guides them from the time they prepare for their employment to the time they return to the Philippines.

"I was inspired to write this book when my late father was still secretary of foreign affairs. On one of our trips abroad, I found myself often beside a clueless Filipino OFW who was quite nervous because it was his first time to leave the country," Ople said.

The author is the daughter of the late Foreign Secretary F. Ople, a former labor secretary, senator and member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission who is acknowledged as the "Father of Overseas Employment."

## AIDS numbers growing – Duque

By Christine V. Esguerra

HEAT the good news: The Philippines is still among the countries with relatively low cases of AIDS and HIV – it had only 1,260 reported as of April.

And now the bad news: What we're seeing is just the tip of the iceberg – it's just a matter of time before the number of victims grows by "hops and bounds."

"(The disease) is just around the corner," Health Secretary Francisco Duque III told reporters yesterday. "It could just break out and reach alarming levels."

### 19 cases last April

Between January 1994 and April 2005, the Department of Health registered only a total of 1,260 cases of HIV infection. Two new cases were reported to the DOH's national epidemiology center last April.

"But the more fact that HIV incidence is low, even after a couple of decades, is something that shouldn't, ironically, be an excuse

for us to be complacent," Duque emphasized.

"We have to keep our guard up and make sure that the public in general is adequately informed that this disease could have the potential for an outbreak, and probably reach epidemic proportions if left unguarded," he said.

### 18,000 believed infected

Earlier, Dr. Roderick Fabrice of the Philippine National AIDS Council estimated that there were actually around 18,000 Filipinos infected with the deadly virus.

That's because for every case documented, Fabrice said, the government was most likely missing out on three or four more cases because of the victims' refusal to come out in the open.

Admitting yesterday that the current figures were just the "tip of the iceberg," Duque acknowledged assessments that the problem was actually "hidden and growing."

He urged the public to help the DOH in its surveillance of AIDS/HIV cases.

He said people could help by encouraging their relatives, friends or neighbors whom they suspect of having the virus to seek professional help.

In a previous interview, Fabrice said many AIDS carriers remained in hiding, fearful that they might be discriminated against by society at large. The continuing reluctance made it difficult for the government to assess the real extent of the AIDS problem, he said.

### Erase stigma

"We really have to erase the stigma and the discrimination," Fabrice said. "Once society becomes ready to care for the (HIV+) positive individuals, that's the time we will finally see the real magnitude of the problem."

Based on the latest DOH figures, 148 overseas Filipino workers are infected with HIV. Of these, 266 are students, 126 domestic helpers, 69 employees, 51 health workers and 30 construction.

Of the 2,356 known total cases, 1,391 were infected through sexual intercourse.

## Marcos foe dies at 66

LUCENA CITY – Quirino Arzura, rights lawyer Ecuadorian "El Abogado" passed away at 6 p.m. on Sunday after a lingering illness, his daughter Sorobina said. He was 66.

After his wife Pat died several months ago, Arzura, suffering from diabetes, also had a stroke.

On Friday, his family rushed him to the MMD Hospital where he expired.

### UP grad

A 1962 UP College of Law graduate, Arzura was best remembered as Quirino's foremost law-en rights lawyer who fought the Marcos dictatorship.

"His death has created a big dent for the lawyers and students in their search for justice," Quirino leftist leader Pedro "Tata Pido" Gonzalez told the business in a text message.

### Release

Suspected even by members of the communist movement, Arzura was instrumental in the safe release of several government soldiers who had been captured by the New People's Army.

He was designated Lucena City officer-in-charge when former President Corason Aquino came to power in 1998.

In 2007, he ran for Quirino governor but lost. He went back to the private practice of the law.

### Fiesta

During his term as Lucena City and together with Agustin Ma-

rrasillas, then chief of the Bureau of Internal Revenue local office, the duo conceived of "Pasapalooza in Lucena," a week-long fiesta that culminated with the re-enactment of the flight of St. Ferdinand, the patron saint of Lucena, on May 26.

Arzura was a recipient of the "Quirino Medal of Recognition" in 2005.

Abside from Lucena, he is survived by his US-based son Lucio, daughter-in-law Gloria and their two children, as well as four siblings, Delfo E. Molinar Jr., PIN Southern Luzon



## The WORLD

Editor Luvorne B. Guaco

# Saddam to be tried on just 12 charges

BAGHDAD—Iraq said it would bring 12 charges of crimes against humanity against Saddam Hussein although there were more than 500 possible cases against the ousted dictator.

The Iraqi government also announced Sunday the arrest of two senior members of the organization of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the alleged leader of the al-Qaida terror network in Iraq.

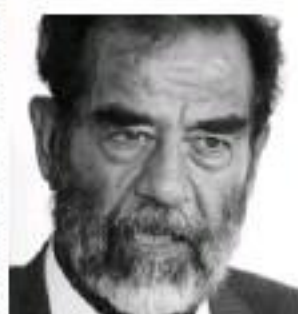
"There are possibly more than 500 cases being prepared against Saddam Hussein, but there is no reason to waste time in dealing with them all," government spokesperson Leith Kubba told reporters.

"We are completely confident that the 12 fully documented charges that have been brought against him are more than sufficient to ensure he receives the maximum sentence."

Saddam, whose regime was toppled in April 2003 and is now in US custody in Iraq awaiting trial, could face the death penalty if found guilty.

His trial should begin within two months, said Kubba.

This is the first time the final number of charges to be brought against Saddam has been announced, although the judge in charge of his trial said on Saturday that 12 charges had been completed so far.



SADDAM

Saddam faces a litany of accusations from his more than two decades in power including the 1988 chemical attack on the Kurdish village of Halabja, the forceful repression of the 1991 Shiite rebellion and the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

State TV in Iran, which fought a war with Saddam's Iraq between 1980-1988, announced Sunday Tehran had handed over Iran's accusations against the former Iraqi dictator to the court that will try him.

Kubba vowed that the Shiite Muslim-dominated government of Prime Minister Ibrahim Jafari would eradicate what he described as the "Saddamist, fascist thinking and hardline Muslim ideas."

Saddam loyalists and foreign Muslim militants are accused of fueling the insurgency which receives sympathy from much of the once-dominant Sunni Arab community.

Two senior members of Jordanian-born Zarqawi's network were recently arrested in the northern city of Mosul.

Motdaq Mahmoud Motdaq Abdulah, also known as Abu Raed, was arrested in Mosul on May 28, a government statement said Sunday.

Abu Raed is described as a close aide to Abu Talha, the Mosul chief of Zarqawi's al-Qaida Organization in the Land of Two Rivers, and his financial manager.

"Abu Raed is responsible for organizing his meetings with some terrorists and is aware of all his plans and crimes," it said.

The announcement of Abu Raed's arrest comes three days after the capture of another Zarqawi associate in Mosul.

Zarqawi, who has \$25-million bounty on his head, is believed to have been wounded, but the severity of his wounds are not immediately known.

But Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zehari told CNN television that unrest in Iraq was likely to continue even if Iraqi or US forces capture Zarqawi. **AFP**

## US military destroys insurgent bunkers

BAGHDAD—The US military said Monday it destroyed two bunkers suspected of being used by insurgents to store weapons and plan attacks as seven members of Iraq's security forces were wounded in two separate bombings.

US forces destroyed a former Republican Guard bunker system in the Yusifiyah area southwest of the capital on Thursday following a tip-off by local residents and surveillance of the site, said a military statement.

It said the bunker, located in an area that housed a major part of ousted dictator Saddam Hussein's former military-industrial complex, was being used by insurgents to store ammunition.

"Coalition Forces engaged the complex with five high-precision smart-bombs," it said.

"Secondary detonations emanating from inside the complex" continued for about six hours after the strike, but no civilians were injured in the operation, the statement added.

On Sunday, US troops destroyed a bunker system built in an abandoned rock quarry in Karmah, near the former rebel bastion of Falluja west of Baghdad, which had been found four days earlier.

About 150 kg of plastic explosives were used to destroy the network and the weapons stored inside, the military said, adding that 12 weapons caches were also found within an eight kilometer radius of the bunker.

The whole complex was 170 meters wide and 275 meters long or

bigger than four football pitches and fresh food inside showed the hide-out had been recently inhabited.

Fully furnished living spaces were found in the warren, along with a kitchen, showers and an air conditioner, hi-tech combat equipment such as night vision goggles and a large haul of weapons and ammunition.

As US and Iraqi forces pressed on with Operation Lightning aimed at routing out insurgents in Baghdad and surrounding areas, rebels struck again Monday against their favored targets.

Three members of the elite Iraqi commando force were wounded in a car bombing in the capital's southwestern Al-Amil neighborhood, said a source at the interior ministry.

Earlier, four Iraqi soldiers were wounded when a suicide car bomber blew himself up at the entrance of a joint US-Iraqi security coordination center in Tikrit, Saddam's home town north of Baghdad, said local police.

A US soldier died Sunday after his patrol was struck by a roadside bomb near Iraq's northern oil city of Kirkuk, the US military said Monday.

The latest death brought the number of US service personnel killed in Iraq to 1,670, according to an AFP tally based on Pentagon figures.

More than 1,200 suspects have been arrested since the launch of Operation Lightning at the end of May, one of the bloodiest months since the US-led invasion of March 2003 that saw about 700 Iraqis killed in a frenzy of attacks throughout the country. **AFP**



WANTED: BIKE-FRIENDLY CITIES

People ride their bicycles at the 10th Starnfahrt bike ride in Berlin June 5. Around 250,000 cyclists from all over Europe are expected to take part in the world's largest bicycle ride to call for safer cycling and cycle-friendly cities. **AP/WIDE**

## Japanese FM calls China's war shrine criticism 'absurd,' defends history text

TOKYO—Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura on Monday called China's criticism of visits to a war shrine "absurd" and defended a controversial history textbook, accusing Beijing of ignoring Tokyo's pacifist record as a donor.

China has said relations were at a three-decade low due to an annual pilgrimage by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to the Yasukuni shrine, which honors 2.46 million Japanese war dead, including 14 convicted war criminals.

"As soon as he visited the Yasukuni shrine, China said Japan was turning to militarism and we were not peaceful. This is absurd," Machimura said.

"We gave them aid, even by issuing deficit-covering bonds. At least in the '90s, we were the world's biggest provider of aid" to China.

"I can say this proudly," Machimura told a foreign ministry meeting on foreign aid.

Koizumi has visited the Yasukuni shrine each year since he took office in 2001, with his last visit on Jan. 1, 2004.

He has indicated he will go again this year despite criticism from China and South Korea, which were invaded by Japan in the 20th century, and also appeals by former prime ministers concerned about Japan's diplomatic isolation.

In April sometimes violent protests erupted in China, which accuses Japan of not atoning for its past after Tokyo approved a history textbook written by self-described nationalists who believe Japan is too apologetic about its wartime record.

But Machimura defended the book

by the Pitsosha publisher, saying that "leftist Japanese scholars and journalists" had taken the issue out of proportion.

"If you read the textbooks you know," Machimura said. "Obviously there is no textbook that praises militarism and colonialism."

"The teachers' union would not adopt a textbook unless it has left-slanted passages," Machimura told a luncheon hosted by Jiji Press.

"Even the Pitsosha book is on the center of the fairway. Certainly not in the right-side rough. Certainly not out of bounds," he said, using a golf analogy.

"I think the textbook problem was formed only by slogans and prejudice. If we explain, the issue can be understood," he said. **AFP**



# US running 'archipelago' of secret prisons around the world—Amnesty International

**WASHINGTON**—The US government is operating an "archipelago" of prisons around the world, many of them secret, says a report from Amnesty International.

At Human Rights Watch, which criticized the administration of US President George W. Bush by holding alleged human rights abuses in "detention facilities around the world," said that US officials are using secret prisons to detain those who are not wanted in the United States.

Secret prisons are not secret, Amnesty says. It says in a May 20 report that the US government at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base—where hundreds of foreign detainees are being held—is "definitely" operating the "prison of the world."

The report, written by the executive director of the Human Rights Watch, said that the US government is using secret prisons to detain those who are not wanted in the United States. It says that the US government is using secret prisons to detain those who are not wanted in the United States.

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US officials have revealed the names of the detainees held at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base. The White House sought to keep the names of the detainees secret.

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# Hezbollah says Lebanon triumph to keep arms against Israel

**BEIRUT**—The pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim Hezbollah resistance fighters Thursday claimed a sweeping victory in a battle against Israeli forces which it said was a clear message that it will keep its arms.

The victory, Hezbollah said, was a clear message that it will keep its arms. It says that the victory was a clear message that it will keep its arms.

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# Envoy: China not keeping 1,000 spies in Australia

**BEIJING**—China's ambassador to Australia on Wednesday denied claims that her country has more than 1,000 spies in the country, saying that the number is "very small."

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# France asks self: Is the 'Anglo-Saxon model' its cup of tea?

By John L. Heilbrunn

**PARIS**—For years, French officials have been told that "there is no alternative" to the Anglo-Saxon model of capitalism. But now, French officials are asking themselves if the Anglo-Saxon model is their cup of tea.

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# S. Africa's 'Dr. Garlic' to address AIDS meet

**Johannesburg**—South African President Thabo Mbeki is set to address a meeting on AIDS in Johannesburg.

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# METRO

The Inquirer's Metro section provides news and analysis on the city of Manila and its surrounding areas.

Read more Metro stories at [www.inquirer.com/metro](http://www.inquirer.com/metro)

Editor: Remy C. Dela Cruz

## Where are school buses?

By Remy C. Dela Cruz

THE LAMU Transportation Foundation and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) recently unveiled 1,000 Metro Manila school bus routes. But the routes are not yet operational. The LTFRB said that the routes are not yet operational because the routes are not yet approved by the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

school bus operators with no routes. The routes are not yet operational because the routes are not yet approved by the Department of Transportation (DOTr). The routes are not yet operational because the routes are not yet approved by the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

Manila for school buses should not be more than 15 years old to qualify for a franchise, she added. The routes are not yet operational because the routes are not yet approved by the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

Routes and there had been to prove that school service owners also operated their routes. The routes are not yet operational because the routes are not yet approved by the Department of Transportation (DOTr).



THE LTFRB operation and a school bus in the Metro Manila. The routes are not yet operational because the routes are not yet approved by the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

## Smooth sailing on school opening day

By Tina C. Santos

THE LAMU Transportation Foundation and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) recently unveiled 1,000 Metro Manila school bus routes. But the routes are not yet operational. The LTFRB said that the routes are not yet operational because the routes are not yet approved by the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

teacher handles at least 30 pupils. The routes are not yet operational because the routes are not yet approved by the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

to keep everyone away. The routes are not yet operational because the routes are not yet approved by the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

in the biggest elementary school in the city, said that the routes are not yet operational because the routes are not yet approved by the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

THE LTFRB operation and a school bus in the Metro Manila. The routes are not yet operational because the routes are not yet approved by the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

## Shuttle buses for students mulled

By Terry V. Quinsuan

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will take shuttle buses to a school project designed to ease traffic congestion by reducing the number of cars and trucks in the city.

active director, said yesterday the idea of a single building and reducing the number of cars and trucks in the city.

one first considered in 2002, when it was approved by the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

## Detective program revived

By Patricia C. Ortiz

THE CITY'S "Detective" program, which was revived last year, will be used to monitor the city's traffic and security.

THE LTFRB operation and a school bus in the Metro Manila. The routes are not yet operational because the routes are not yet approved by the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

## Women cause-oriented groups a letdown

SAMBALE and other women cause-oriented groups are a letdown. The groups are not yet operational because the routes are not yet approved by the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

ON TARGET. The groups are not yet operational because the routes are not yet approved by the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

country called Duterte, one of the former presidents of the Philippines. The groups are not yet operational because the routes are not yet approved by the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

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## SPORTS

## Collegiate standouts may miss August Seaba tourney

By Justin M. Sizemore

(RUE TV) a sudden change in the schedule, the top-winning players from the DPAF and DCHA will now likely join the Southwest Asian Intercollegiate Association (SWIA) circuit.

United Philippine bank coach (2nd floor) gets the go-ahead from the two primary refugee lawyers. March 14, 2004.

The NCAA is not in open on June 22 and the NAIA on July 1 leaving little or no time for the coaches to make the necessary adjustments to the game plan. The NAIA coaches will have to make the necessary adjustments to the game plan in the last 24 hours.

"I don't know yet if we can get a connection from the IAAF and the NCAA to allow these pharmacologists to be the national team in the States," said Reyes. "If they are not allowed to play, then we will just select the players from the pool."

The 2012 national team will be coached by Dr. David Costello, a professor of physiology at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Joe's new schedule, former Marlins, Great Falls, Juan Marichal, Jeff Laine, JJ Quilley, Mike Torres, JJ Reyes and Mike Anthony Washington and Kirby Williams.

Originally dated July 30-31, the event was moved a week later by the Singapore organizers.

The tournament is the regional qualifier for the 10th Asian Badminton Championships in China, Qiong in September where the top two teams advance to the 2006 World Badminton Championships in Java, Indonesia.

“The media is crucial because it’s the qualifying for the tournament that we’re looking forward to, so I’m going to handle it as well,” said Byers.

# Aces battle Beermen for second semis slot

**ACTION** in the Iran-Maldives-Philippines Basketball Association Fiesta Cup gets into high gear as the wild-card phase fires off tomorrow this week.

The playoff schedule starts Thursday although the east has yet to be completed pending the outcome of the Alaska-Anchorage exhibition series.

The boys and the teenagers club is a 7-juv. playoff game at the Denver Coliseum for the second straight seasonal berth.

Boys scores finished the qualification round tied for second place with identical 11 Truads.

The Philadelphia duo has 1 seed, by winning their last assignment against the New York Islanders. MSG, 101-100, behind Mike Millett's game-winning bucket.

## RP 'sepak' bets bow out of contention

**PHILIPPINE PRODIGAL CITY.**—The Philippine men's squad bowed out of contention in double-elimination of the International Basketball League (NBA) Championship held in Manila. S. Vignolo's Day 4, the Puerto Ricoers collapsed, losing 100-90.

The hoop event will be played Monday while the Filipino men and women are expected to perform well. The W team's next was the oldest member in the FIBA Cup, Thailand last December.

After bowing to South Korea last week night, the Philippines, a team of Billy Juranga, Joe Rocky Garcia and several young players lost to Singapore, 23-19, 27-21, 18-15.

Myanmar will have Japan while Korea will stay in our with Malaysia in the common front.

But the Japanese have still improved the sportsmanship of the.

"Triple" players are good but they have little experience," said from 1980, secretary-general of the Myanmar Sports Union Association. "Given [some] exposure, they will give us a useful new strategy."

The American team is a

"We will have our drums—in keep even," and *shagbuns*, who handles the Puerto Rican-based *Widance's* team. "I hope we can finally get out that toxic model in *discharge*."

**Bobogon's 'Hurtain' as**  
CUBOISM's first blueprint looking to be  
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Pittsburgh Music Center's Pittsburgh area  
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[illegible]Bautista . . . *New balls showcased at NBA Madness*

Beatsville (Beatsville-Confederate) is a weekly scheduled to Chicago (United States) from Los Angeles.

**SPILLAGE:** Basked on its most vibrant winter backdrop during the recent 20



- While fans saw the latest spelling model, including the Indians, Jason, Ryan, Le...



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## Testing ground

**MEMORABLE** seems just can't  
be true with reality.  
—*Eric Clapton* Beyond. And you be  
remembering that.

**Q** The last time we played Asia Champion Cup, we lost 1-0. Before that, we finished second in the group.

SPECTATOR



...we members of the  
...from where that will be  
...composition of the squad  
...and then, if you want

to know, each participant gave you the opportunity to answer his or her question. Once asked these questions, I will be able to answer them.



doi:10.1017/S0022292410000503  
 Published online by Cambridge University Press

General notes on the structure of the text.

compared mostly all play. That's  
all. In the end, it's all about the

monoclonal antibodies are the products of one clone, obtained in the laboratory.



For more information, contact: **Dr. Robert J. M. Williams**, Director, **Environmental Health Sciences**, **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**, **Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7070**, **USA**. **Phone: +1 919 959 7200**, **Fax: +1 919 959 7200**, **Email: [robert.williams@unc.edu](mailto:robert.williams@unc.edu)**







# NON-BANK FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

## BSP tightens rules on dividend payments

### Landco to put up 12-ha integrated business park in Naga City

LANDCO Pacific Corp., a housing corporation of central business district (CBD) projects, is planning a commercial park in Naga City of a 12-hectare integrated business park, which will focus food, retail, and shopping.

The business park will be the first of its kind in Naga City and is expected to become a commercial hub in Camarines Sur.

The development will have several of its units that will include the city's IT park, an increasing number of downtown offices at Naga City in a possible site of call centers and business process outsourcing (BPO) facilities.

Jose Samra, Landco's business development manager for CBDs and shopping centers, said Naga City is a possible site to become a regional hub because of its strategic location and status as a secondary town.

Naga City is the site of several other developments including the Naga City Mall, the Naga City Hotel and University of Buena Vista.

Alongside the business offices will be parking lots, shopping centers, hotels, restaurants, and a community center.

Landco said it would transform the area into a business district in a more comprehensive manner than the CBDs and shopping centers.

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By Dora C. Dizon

THE BANGKOK-based Philippine Bankers' Association (PBA) has issued a circular on the basis of dividends to guide banks to prevent possible decrease of funds.

The circular is BSP circular 494 issued on May 24 by BSP regarding the distribution of dividends to banks.

Under the circular, banks are required to maintain a minimum level of funds to ensure the solvency of the BSP.

The circular also requires banks to maintain a minimum level of funds to ensure the solvency of the BSP.

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banks are not allowed to pay dividends.

The circular is in line with section 37 of the Revised Banking Law of 2000, which prohibits banks and quasi-banks from declaring dividends greater than their accumulated net profits.

The new circular also provided that the net assets of the bank must be at least 100 percent of the dividends to be paid.

The circular also requires banks to maintain a minimum level of funds to ensure the solvency of the BSP.

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other non-banking financial institutions.

The BSP however, said it will not allow banks to pay dividends greater than their accumulated net profits.

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## Consumer watchdog seeks amendments to VAT law

By Rosal W. Derrig

CONSUMERS' welfare advocate Rod T. Corpuz yesterday called for amendments to the new value-added tax (VAT) law.

Corpuz, president of the Consumers and Old Trade Union, said it is a law that while it was intended to protect the consumer, it was not.

President Joseph Estrada signed last May 28 the expanded value-added tax (VAT) law.

The law would raise the VAT from 3 percent to 12 percent on most goods and services.

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"What is the President to do next year to offer to the following issues: consumer protection, anti-trust, consumer protection, and making the economy globally competitive."

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## VAT, you say? What VAT is that?

By Paul R. Cooper

(Continued)

THE VAT is a new tax on goods and services. It is a tax on the value added to a product or service.

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amount for those to their own liability.

At a general policy conference, one should question why taxpayers are paying taxes on the value added to a product or service.

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should be paid under a VAT system to meet the 3 percent minimum rate.

The professionals will also have a field day with the VAT law. It is a law that while it was intended to protect the consumer, it was not.

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## LIFE STYLE

The Inquirer, available at <http://www.inquirer.com.ph>For a complete breakdown  
of our coverage, visit us at  
1381 (GMA) or 20 (DZMM)

Like-Click-Read-Forward

MONDAY ARTS &amp; BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY ISU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION &amp; BEAUTY

There is more  
than a 50-percent  
chance  
that children  
who perform  
poorly in class  
have worms



"WORMS IN US"  
is theme of last children's  
sanitary

# Why Pinoy kids may have trouble learning

By Shirley Di  
Così Bae

**I**n the 1987 national day census that grew to 2002, only 50 percent of Filipino students passed in English, 29 percent in Science and 27 percent in Mathematics. Many public school students graduate from elementary barely knowing how to read, write and count.

Often the blaming game of Philippine education is played on lack of competent teachers, educational facilities and supplies, and budget, as well as chronic mismanagement.

Teacher interventions, such as Math clinics and bridge programs, were not to have changed the situation significantly.

In November 2004, in Agaña, Manila, the National Institute of Health (NIH) and a professor of Parasitology at the College of Public Health at the University of the Philippines Manila, believed one of the best bets would be to address the 85 percent children's health.

By June 2005, that statistic

was down to 40 percent.

Worms

Believe it or not, there is more than a 50 percent chance that kids who perform poorly in class have intestinal helminths—in other words, worms.

Intestinal helminths, parasites, including tapeworms and roundworms, result from contact with surface, food or anything contaminated with human excrement from a human or animal.

In about 20 million Filipinos have parasites. The helminths, particularly common in the region, reduce a person's weight, as parasites consume nutrients and digestive proteins. Worms can consume 0.5 to 1 gram of food per day. With a lifespan of two to six months, they are a major cause of malnutrition that can make learning difficult.

In 1990, Belandier's study was an analysis of third-graders at the San Marcos Elementary School. He found that 62 percent of the children had worms. The highest rate of infection was found among the worst performers in the lowest section. The findings established a connection between parasites and poor performance.

Studies in 2001 among Grade 1 students in different regions and classes in the system showed that 47 percent of them carried head worms. Another nationwide survey in 2004 showed that 56 percent of the country's preschool children had intestinal parasites.

## Fastest solution

The cheapest and fastest solution to the problem, of course, is deworming. Though the National Department of Health, such as the Center for Parasitology, Helminthology and Entomology, has been successful in deworming, from 2003, Belandier says they are not enough.

"These efforts are not as effective as they should be because of a number of factors," he says, citing, among others, poor hygiene, poor environmental sanitation,



SUPERAMTODX teaches kids proper hygiene and the need for deworming in a day.

Belandier's worms appear to have inspired Santa Rosa, which is now donating up to one program. Asked why other districts are slow to follow Belandier's example, Belandier cites budget problems and inefficient programs.

"It takes a long time to have the budget and progressive thinking of kids," he says. The municipal

also benefits from the support

of Amway Philippines, makers of Amway, which pledged to provide 60,000,000 mg deworming tablets to cover the same annual campaign among 24,000 children.

Amway, a relatively affordable anti-deworming, one-month course and proven wormer for 4.4 cents, it contains 100 mg of Ivermectin.

Belandier says,



THE BIKIN DREAM TEAM: Bianca Canales, product manager for Helminthology; Arlene De Vito; Bianca Espinoza, district supervisor of Basic Public Schools; and Jody Espinoza, franchise manager of Consumer Parasite Division, Amway Philippines, a division of Amway and Amway.

the World Health Organization recommended safe and effective deworming for both children aged 2 and above and adults.

Recently Bianca Canales, product manager for Helminthology, and Jody Espinoza,

franchise manager of Consumer Parasite Division, Amway Philippines, visited Manila people as health to estimate the extent of helminth and to provide support for deworming programs in other municipalities and provinces.

poor delivery and low coverage of public health services, and a low impact of control efforts due to lack of resources.

DOH inspired producers and Grade 1 students for worming efforts, including adults. But the biggest problem, Belandier says, is that parasite infection is not an acknowledged problem.

Three government officials in Manila, Laguna, are changing this perception. Belandier Espinoza, district supervisor of Basic Public Schools, supports Belandier's program of periodic deworming of public school children.

"I have high infection for the children of Manila," she says. But with the support of the local government and the school board, Espinoza and Belandier conducted anti-worming deworming campaign in 1999 for all public schools in the Manila district, starting with the San Marcos Elementary School.

To minimize resistance from both parents and some teachers (the program must add value to both), Espinoza turned the deworming program into a school affair that kids could enjoy and parents would approve of.

"We set up a giant parade and held sessions for the children," she says. "We also staged plays about good hygiene and deworming."

## Improvements

Between 1998 and 1999, the number of infected students markedly decreased, Belandier says. From 60 percent, we went down to 36 percent. In 2000, infection was down to 28 percent. Another improvement was seen in 2001.

"Since ranked second and third in Science and Math in 2001, four to 100 percent the two previous years," Espinoza says. "In 2004, out of the 24 my performing schools in Laguna, five were from Manila."

The evidence that the deworming program is not the sole reason for the academic improvement but only one of the steps to achieve the goal of quality education.

Belandier says, "Deworming is just a one-shot deal. It needs to be sustained. It is vital that we do more than a year—in summer and Christmas—to ensure that we create more lives."







